

June 24, 2002

To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne Brathwaite Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: David E. Janssen
Chief Administrative Officer

MOTION TO SUPPORT AB 915 (FROMMER) – IMMUNIZATION OF CHILDREN FOR HEPATITIS A (ITEM NO. 19, AGENDA OF JUNE 25, 2002)

Item No. 19 on the June 25, 2002 Agenda is a motion by Supervisor Molina to support AB 915 (Frommer), send a five-signature letter to the Los Angeles County Legislative Delegation and the Senate Health and Human Services Committee expressing the Board's support, and instruct the County's Legislative Advocates in Sacramento to support AB 915.

As amended on June 13, 2002, AB 915 would add hepatitis A to the list of diseases for which the State requires immunization prior to admission to kindergarten in the counties of Imperial, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, and San Diego. This requirement would become effective on July 1, 2003. The bill would also reinstate an exemption from the immunization and tuberculosis testing verification requirement for "drop in" day care centers and require the State Department of Health Services to develop and implement a public education and outreach program to raise awareness about hepatitis A.

Existing law expresses Legislative intent to eventually achieve total immunization of appropriate age groups against: diphtheria, hepatitis B, haemophilus influenzae type B, measles, mumps, pertussis, poliomyelitis, rubella, tetanus, and varicella. Current law prohibits a private or public elementary or secondary school, child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or development center from admitting a pupil unless the pupil has been immunized against these diseases. It also permits the State Department of Health Services to add any other diseases it deems appropriate to the list

Each Supervisor
June 24, 2002
Page 2

of diseases requiring immunization, as long as it is consistent with the recommendations of the Federal Centers for Disease Control, Prevention Immunization Practices Advisory Committee, and the American Academy of Pediatrics Committee of Infectious Diseases.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) indicates that, although rates of hepatitis A among all children have been declining in the past several years and increased numbers of vaccinations for hepatitis A are being given, Latino children still have disproportionately higher rates for this disease compared to other racial or ethnic groups. **Therefore, DHS recommends that the County support AB 915 because it could further reduce the incidence of hepatitis A infection among all children by requiring vaccinations for children entering kindergarten, and by increasing public awareness about hepatitis A through the educational component of the bill, and we concur.**

AB 915 is sponsored by the California Medical Transportation Association and supported by the California Medical Association, California Healthcare Association, California Pharmacist Association, California Federation of Teachers, California Chapter of the American Liver Foundation, Latino Coalition for a Healthy California, Hepatitis C Coalition, Latino Issues Forum, California Academy of Physician Assistants, California Medical Board, California Nurses Association, United Food and Commercial Workers, AIDS Prevention Action Network, Orange County Immunization Coalition, California Veterans Resource Association, California Vietnam Veterans Association, Union of American Physicians and Dentists, Children's Advocacy Institute, California Restaurant Association, California Hispanic Healthcare Association, National Hispanic Medical Association, MALDEF, National Council of La Raza, and the California Primary Care Association.

AB 915 is opposed by the California Medical Group. The California Conference of Local Health Officers also opposes the bill because they believe that the requirement should be Statewide and not limited to specific geographical areas and because a new combined hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccine is on the horizon which will be more practical for immunization scheduling.

AB 915 passed the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on June 19, 2002 on a vote of 8 to 1 and now awaits a hearing in the Senate Appropriations Committee.

DEJ:GK
MS:lm

c: Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Department of Health Services